

## Author's Perspective

### Alleviate Your Acne

Although many people believe that acne is just a part of growing up, there are a lot of things that you can do to avoid making breakouts worse.

The most important thing to remember is not to touch your face. Your hands are probably one of the dirtiest parts of your body. Every time you place them on your face, you transfer all the dirt and bacteria from your hands to your face. In addition, if you squeeze your pimples, the bacteria inside them will spread, and your breakout will be even worse.

Wash your face thoroughly once or twice a day with soap. Be careful when you are washing your face. No matter how rigorously you wash your face, you can only clean your skin's surface. Use your finger tips to massage your face. If your face is already irritated and experiencing a breakout, don't use exfoliating products. The rough beads in them could make acne worst by further irritating your skin.

When it comes to selecting skin care products like soaps and moisturizers, there are many affordable choices at your local store. Doctors say one of the best over-the-counter medications you can use for your acne is benzoyl peroxide. Everyone's skin is different, so no one product will work for every acne sufferer. Listen to what your skin is telling you and apply products accordingly.

There is no scientific evidence that suggests any food causes acne. In the past, people have blamed chocolate, greasy foods, nuts, and even soda for breakouts. If you notice a connection between your diet and acne, you may want to change what you eat.

1. The author most likely wrote this passage to

- ☐ A. inform teens about the importance of proper skin care.
- ☐ B. dispel popular myths that link food to skin breakouts.
- ☐ C. show how benzyl peroxide can irritate your skin.
- ☐ D. teach students how to keep their hands clean.

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2. How could the author have strengthened this passage?

- ☐ A. by giving statistics on the kinds of germs found on hands
- ☐ B. by including information on the specific products for readers
- ☐ C. by including information on why benzoyl peroxide works well
- ☐ D. by persuading the reader to visit a dermatologist for skincare

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3. Which of the following sentences best reveals the author's attitude in this selection?

- ☐ A. "Every time you place them on your face, you transfer all the dirt and bacteria from your hands to your face."

- ☐ B. "Although many people believe that acne is just a part of growing up, there are a lot of things that you can do to avoid making breakouts worse."
  - ☐ C. "In addition, if you squeeze your pimples, the bacteria inside them will spread, and your breakout will be even worse."
  - ☐ D. "No matter how rigorously you wash your face, you can only clean your skin's surface."
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4. Based on this passage, the author probably agrees with which statement?

- ☐ A. Keeping your hands away from your face is more important than what soap you choose.
  - ☐ B. Your skin will clear up quickly if you don't eat chocolate, greasy food, and nuts or drink soda.
  - ☐ C. You must start a regimen of using oil-free products if you want to have healthy, clear skin.
  - ☐ D. The best thing you can do for clearer skin is choose the right products to use on your face.
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### Fair and Balanced, that's All We Ask

The students of Really Great High School are tired of all the negative press our school keeps getting. It seems that the only time news cameras are around is when something horrible happens. No one comes to report on the everyday greatness that takes place behind our doors.

Our senior class is sponsoring a community service event called the Backpacks for Change. We are collecting donations of toiletries, food, toys, and animal products to donate to shelters throughout the city. The class also tutors students at the local elementary school. We volunteer with the retirement home on Old Buckroe Road. Where are our news stories?

The valedictorian of our class has been accepted to five of the top ten colleges in the nation. In addition to maintaining a perfect average, she is also a captain of the cheerleading squad and plays the cello in the school orchestra. Her community service ideas have earned the senior class more than 2,000 hours of service. Yet she has never been featured in the local newspaper or on the nightly news.

We do not ask that you not report the bad things that happen at our school, or any school for that matter. What the students of Really Great High School want is for you to devote equal attention to the good things we are doing. It is not fair to us for you to solely paint our school as a negative or dangerous place. One major aspect of journalism in this country is supposed to be "fair and balanced reporting." Where is our fairness, our balance?

5. Based on this passage, which word **best** describes the author?

- ☐ A. prejudiced
  - ☐ B. passive
  - ☐ C. average
  - ☐ D. reasonable
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6. The author probably wrote this passage because he or she

- ☐ A. would like to go to school to become a balanced journalist.
- ☐ B. wants a chance to be featured on an evening newscast.
- ☐ C. is the head of the RGHS community service committee.
- ☐ D. is concerned about Really Great High School's image.

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7. Choose which sentence from the passage **best** conveys the author's message.

- ☐ A. "We volunteer with the retirement home on Old Buckroe Road."
- ☐ B. "Her community service ideas have earned the senior class more than 2,000 hours of service."
- ☐ C. "It is not fair to us for you to solely paint our school as a negative or dangerous place."
- ☒ D. "It seems that the only time news cameras are around is when something horrible happens."

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8. Which statement would the author of this passage most likely agree with?

- ☐ A. Our community service projects are the best thing to happen in this town.
- ☐ B. Negative things about public schools should not be on the nightly news.
- ☐ C. Bad things happen everywhere but so do good things, so report both.
- ☐ D. Good things about our high school should be the lead newspaper story.

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You Belong Here University  
1234 Highway to Your Dreams  
Dream City, Dream State 56789

Dear Student,

We are writing to invite you to apply for admission to You Belong Here University. The information our school has received about your academic performance so far has convinced us that you are a quality applicant. You will make a great YBHU student.

The cultural diversity, stellar instructional staff, state-of-the-art facilities, and vast network of alumni are just a few reasons why you should consider coming here. Whatever your interests in furthering your education are, we are sure you will find a marvelous program to suit your needs here at YBHU. Our small class size provides students with an atmosphere that encourages questions and interactions with both professors and classmates.

Our school has a very rich history. It was founded nearly 150 years ago by George Hancock, a man who believed strongly in educating people for life. The university began as a reading class taught

under a tree. It grew quickly into several school buildings, and the enrollment has increased steadily from there.

We believe you have what it takes to add to our school's rich tapestry of alumni. Your proven dedication to academic excellence in your school career thus far perfectly aligns with our admission requirements. YBHU looks forward to receiving your application in the mail soon.

Remember, what you start here changes the world. You belong at YBHU.

Sincerely,

YBHU Admissions

**9.** Which statement from the passage reveals the author's attitude towards YBHU?

- ☐ **A.** "The information our school has received about your academic performance so far has convinced us that you are a quality applicant."
- ☐ **B.** "YBHU looks forward to receiving your application in the mail soon."
- ☐ **C.** "We are sure you will find a marvelous program to suit your needs here at YBHU."
- ☐ **D.** "It grew quickly into several school buildings, and the enrollment has increased steadily from there."

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**10.** The author of this letter would probably agree that

- ☐ **A.** students should consider other schools besides YBHU.
  - ☐ **B.** newer schools foster the best learning atmosphere.
  - ☐ **C.** students should not be too comfortable with professors.
  - ☐ **D.** small classes are better for learning than large ones.
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## Answers

- 1. A
- 2. C
- 3. B
- 4. A
- 5. D

- 6. D
- 7. C
- 8. C
- 9. C
- 10. D

## Explanations

- 1. The writer discusses ways that teens can avoid making their acne worse: not touching their faces, washing their faces, choosing good products, and monitoring their diets if necessary.
- 2. The best thing the author of this passage could do is list reasons why doctors say benzoyl peroxide is a great skin care product. Although the answer choice about specific products is tempting, read the passage again. "Everyone's skin is different, so no one product will work for every acne sufferer." Specific recommendations would not strengthen this passage.
- 3. In this passage, the author discusses ways to prevent breakouts from getting worse. He or she believes that although you can't avoid acne altogether, you can avoid making it worse. This sentence best describes that attitude.
- 4. In the passage, the author says that keeping your hands away from your face is the most important thing you can do to avoid having bad acne. Therefore, he or she probably believes that this is more important than the right products.
- 5. From the passage, the author seems to understand that news institutions are responsible for reporting whatever happens—negative or positive. The reader can conclude that he or she is a reasonable person.
- 6. Sentences like, "The students of Really Great High School are tired of all the negative press our school keeps getting" tell the reader that the author of this passage and other students are concerned with the school's image.
- 7. This sentence most accurately sums up the author's argument in this passage and his or her request for "fair and balanced reporting."
- 8. The writer says that he or she just wants the good things going on at Really Great High School to receive an equal amount of time as the bad things that happen there. The writer would more than likely agree with this statement.
- 9. The writer says that no matter what the student is interested in, he or she will find something at YBHU. The author is very confident in the school, and this quote from the passage shows that.

10. The author is attempting to list all of the positive attributes of YBHU. He or she lists a small class size as one good thing about the school because it allows students to interact with each other and professors.

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